Colorado:
Did you know?

Per Pupil Funding
Where have we been?
Where are we now?
Last time Colorado in top 25% of Per Pupil Funding:

1970’S

(source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Last time Colorado close to National Average?

1980’S

(source: U.S. Census Bureau)
Per Pupil Funding dropped dramatically?

1990’S

(source: U.S. Census Bureau)

2012-13
Colorado Per Pupil Funding rank in US:

40th

(source: 2015 U.S. Census Bureau)
Our 2015-16 Per Pupil Funding is the same as:

2007-08 (8 yrs ago) &
1988-89 (27 yrs ago)

Did you know?
The 1992 election changed Colorado government...
Article 10, section 20, was added to our constitution . . .

our legislature could no longer make tax policy. (unlike all other states)
1992-93
Our legislature cut K-12 funding.

During the 90’s, as education reform efforts were implemented.
K-12 funding was cut.
(unfunded mandates)

Did you know?

*In 2000, voters changed K-12 funding.*
Colorado voters said:

**NO MORE CUTS to K-12,**
and passed Amendment 23.

Voters said:

**Increase K-12 funding.**

*Every year.*
2008 – 2009:  
Our legislature passed a mid-year cut.  
(rescission)

2009 – 2010:  
Our legislature created the Negative Factor . . .
cut $130 Million. Reduce state funding for every student.

2010-11 Negative Factor: $381 Million
2011-12
Negative Factor:
$774 Million

2012-13
Negative Factor:
$1.001 Billion
2013-14
Negative Factor:

$1.004 Billion

2014-15
Negative Factor:

$880 Million
2015-16
Negative Factor:
$855 Million

Negative Factor status after 7 consecutive years:
Ongoing
Negative Factor

Districts impacted differently:

larger class sizes or fewer programs,
challenges retaining and attracting staff,

fewer school days,
reduction to school building maintenance,

buses with over 300K-400K miles,
(optimal replacement 175K – 200K)
out of date classroom materials,

out of date technology.
Did you know?
Statewide enrollment continues to grow, 10K plus annually.
Over 850,000 students

The Blueberry Story:
“We can’t send the blueberries back.”
We take them all -

rude
exceptional
confident
rich
ADHD
abused
big
gifted
Juvenile
rheumatoid
arthritis
small
poor
brilliant
English as their second language
frightened
That’s why it’s not a business . . .

It’s a school.”

-Jamie Vollmer, author

Did you know?

Money Matters
How districts would use additional funds...

smaller class sizes, and / or more program offerings,
bring back language, music, art, advanced classes,

address years of deferred maintenance,
add back staff or programs that have been cut,

upgrade curriculum (10+ years old),
address safety and security needs,

attract and retain high quality staff,
replace buses with over 200K miles,

update: history, math, language arts & science materials,
add special education teachers,

purchase supplies for reading intervention,
add elective opportunities in high school,

update / upgrade technology,
early childhood education.

Now you know.
Colorado can have the best K-12 education, if adults support our students.

Want to know more?

www.cosfp.org